

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 04290 021424Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /089 W
-----047241 030916Z /15

R 021341Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3098
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL CURACAO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4290

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PINT NA NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH VIEWS ON FUTURE OF NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

REF: THE HAGUE 3291

1. IN A DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT AUGUST 1, THE DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (DANIELS) LARGELY RESTATED THE VIEWS GIVEN BY THE MFA'S CARIBBEAN DESK OFFICER (REFTEL), ADDING THAT THE GON IS PROJECTING INDEPENDENCE FOR THE ANTILLES "IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES -- THE EARLIER THE BETTER FROM THE DUTCH POINT OF VIEW." THE POSITION WAS INDEED SOMEWHAT ANOMALOUS, DANIELS INDICATED, IN THAT THE COLONIAL POWER WAS HAVING TO PROD THE COLONY INTO INDEPENDENCE, ALTHOUGH THE GON REALIZED THE PROBLEMS FOR THE ANTILLEANS.

2. DANIELS REITERATED THAT THE GON IS SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT VENEZUELAN ATTITUDE AND, IN FACT, EXPECTS THAT COUNTRY'S INFLUENCE IN THE ANTILLES TO INCREASE MARKEDLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER SUCH A INCREASE IN VENEZUELAN INFLUENCE, PARTICULARLY
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PAGE 02 THE HA 04290 021424Z

IN CURACAO AND ARUBA, WOULD BE OF CONCERN TO THE U.S. THE INCOMING DCM, WHO WAS PAYING AN INITIAL CALL ON DANIELS, RESPONDED THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION PRECISELY, HE BELIEVED THE U.S. WOULD PREFER VENEZUELAN INFLUENCE IN THE AREA TO THAT OF CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES. DANIELS SAID HE ASSUMED THAT WOULD BE THE U.S. POSITION, NOTING THAT THE DUTCH WERE AS

CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL INFLUENCE OF MAFIA-TYPE FIGURES
AS THEY WERE BY COUNTRIES SUCH AS CUBA.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES THE
EMBASSY TO PROVIDE DANIELS WITH FURTHER INFORMATION
ABOUT OUR POSITION ON VENEZUELAN INFLUENCE IN THE
ANTILLES, GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SELFGOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA04290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780317-1220
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808105/aaaadkeq.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d2d0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 THE HAGUE 3291
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1555219
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DUTCH VIEWS ON FUTURE OF NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, NA, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d2d0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014